U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE LS-6

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION • U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Labor Potential for Expanding Forest Industries in Northeastern Minnesota, Oct. 1962

Expansion of forest industries has frequently been advanced as a partial remedy for chronic unemployment in northeastern Minnesota. One factor that would influence increased output of forest products is the characteristics of the potential employable labor resource. Plant expansion and location decisions require a knowledge of the qualities as well as the numbers of potential employees.

As a first step in assessing the surplus labor available, the Station's marketing research office in Duluth, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Employment Security, made an inventory of active job applications on file in October 1962, for five counties: Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook. Those seeking permanent employment were counted and classified by age, skills, and educational levels. A summary of the findings is shown in the accompanying table.

Of the 4,764 persons who were registered and seeking permanent employment through the Minnesota State Employment Offices, one-half resided in the Duluth area and more than 85 percent lived in St. Louis County. Those seeking temporary or part-time employment and others not registered in Minnesota State Employment Offices were not enumerated. However, it is estimated that 80 percent or more of the available unemployed labor force is included in the analysis.

More than two-fifths of the jobless are under 35 years old. Five percent fall in the professional, technical, and managerial categories; 18 percent are skilled laborers; and another 17 percent are in the clerical and sales field. The remaining 60 percent are in the service, semiskilled, and unskilled categories. More than 40 percent have high school diplomas or college training.

As indicated in the graph below, unemployment fluctuates seasonally, generally reaching a low point in September or October and a peak during the winter or early spring months. In effect, the October canvass includes in part the "hard core" unemployed who are likely the least skilled. It is possible that a study of the unemployed made later on would show an even higher proportion of skilled and educated labor. Another inventory may be taken during the winter to assess background composition during a seasonal peak of unemployment. A more complete report is planned for publication later, showing detailed skill breakdowns.

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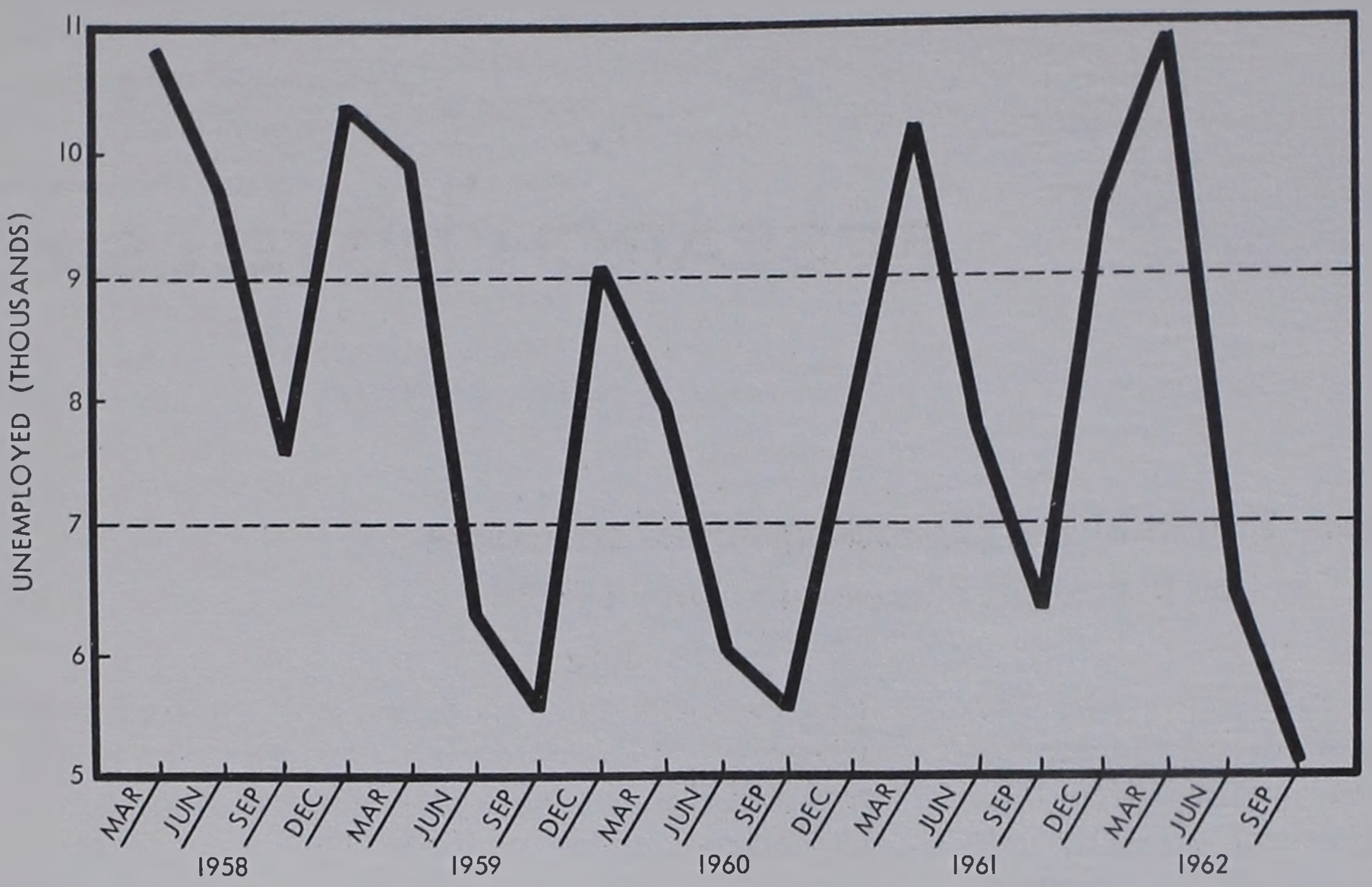

FIGURE 1. — Quarterly unemployment trends in St. Louis County including Duluth, 1958-62. St. Louis County contains 79 percent of the labor force in northeastern Minnesota (Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties), 1960 Census of Agriculture.

Distribution of skills, age classes, and educational levels among the unemployed labor resource in northeast Minnesota[1], October 1962 (Percent of total)

Occupational group and educational level	Age class (years)										Total
	Under 21		21-34		35-44		45-64		65 & over		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Prof., tech., & man.[2]											
Under high school	..	..	.1	..	..	*	.3	.1	.1	..	.6
High school grad.	.2	.1	.6	.1	.4	.1	.5	.2	*	..	2.2
2+ yrs. in college	..	..	.2	*	.1	..	.1	.1	..	..	.5
College grad.	..	..	.8	.1	.3	.1	.1	*	.1	..	1.5
Total	.2	.1	1.7	.2	.8	.2	1.0	.4	.2	..	4.8
Clerical & sales											
Under high school	.1	.3	.2	.5	.1	.4	.6	1.2	.1	.2	3.7
High school grad.	.4	2.4	1.5	3.3	.6	1.4	.5	1.9	*	..	12.0
2+ yrs. in college	*	*	.5	.2	.1	.1	.2	.3	..	*	1.4
College grad.	..	..	*	.1	.1	..	..	.1	..	..	.3
Total	.5	2.7	2.2	4.1	.9	1.9	1.3	3.5	.1	.2	17.4
Service											
Under high school	.2	.8	.5	.6	.3	.8	1.3	2.6	.8	.3	8.2
High school grad.	.2	.8	.2	.7	..	.6	.1	.5	*	..	3.1
2+ yrs. in college	..	..	*	*	..	..	.1	.1	..	..	.2
College grad.	..	..	..	..	..	*	..	..	..	..	*
Total	.4	1.6	.7	1.3	.3	1.4	1.5	3.2	.8	.3	11.5
Skilled labor											
Under high school	.1	..	1.5	.1	2.0	.1	6.8	.1	1.0	.1	11.8
High school grad.	.6	..	2.5	*	1.3	.1	1.4	.2	.1	..	6.2
2+ yrs. in college	*	..	.1	..	.2	*	.1	..	*	..	.4
College grad.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	.7	..	4.1	.1	3.5	.2	8.3	.3	1.1	.1	18.4
Semi-skilled labor											
Under high school	1.7	.2	3.5	.3	2.6	.5	5.4	.9	.6	*	15.7
High school grad.	1.5	.1	3.4	.3	1.1	.6	.8	.3	*	..	8.1
2+ yrs. in college	*	..	.1	..	.1	.1	*	*	..	..	.3
College grad.	..	..	.1	..	..	..	*	..	..	..	.1
Total	3.2	.3	7.1	.6	3.8	1.2	6.2	1.2	.6	*	24.2
Unskilled labor											
Under high school	.7	.1	4.4	.6	2.5	.4	7.1	1.0	.9	.1	17.8
High school grad.	.9	.1	2.4	.3	.8	.3	.4	.2	*	*	5.4
2+ yrs. in college	*	..	.2	..	.1	..	.1	..	..	..	.4
College grad.	..	..	.1	..	*	..	*	..	..	..	.1
Total	1.6	.2	7.1	.9	3.4	.7	7.6	1.2	.9	.1	23.7
All occupations											
Under high school	2.8	1.4	10.2	2.1	7.5	2.2	21.5	5.9	3.5	.7	57.8
High school grad.	3.8	3.5	10.6	4.7	4.2	3.1	3.7	3.3	.1	*	37.0
2+ yrs. in college	*	*	1.1	.2	.6	.2	.6	.5	*	*	3.2
College grad.	..	..	1.0	.2	.4	.1	.1	.1	.1	..	2.0
Total	6.6	4.9	22.9	7.2	12.7	5.6	25.9	9.8	3.7	.7	100.0

[1] *Includes all individuals seeking permanent employment through State Employment Offices in 5 counties — Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook.*

[2] *Professional, Technical, and Managerial.*

* *Less than .05 percent.*